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TOPIC	Observations Made at Sassnitz Harbor			
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SOURCE [] 25X1X

Commercial Activity at Sassnitz.

- Other than the regular ferry service to Trelleborg in Sweden, no noteworthy merchant shipping traffic was observed in Sassnitz (54°31'N/13°38'E) from 26 June to 20 September 1951. In late June 1951 source heard that all railroad cars arriving or leaving on the ferry to Sweden will be opened and checked by personnel of the criminal police (KPP) by order of the Soviet control officer. In July 1951, the goods imported from Sweden into the Soviet Zone of Germany via Sassnitz included: 65 tons of cheese, 237 tons of butter, 211 tons of milk powder, 71 tons of eggs, 15 tons of coffee concentrates, 25 tons of sausage casings. Most of these goods were intended for the World Youth Festivals in Berlin. During the same period, importations from Sweden for Czechoslovakia included: 397 tons of lard and 105 tons of meat. In September 1951, freight traffic via Sassnitz dropped considerably. This was probably due to measures taken by the Soviet control officer which made police, customs and railroad operations more and more difficult. (1)
- According to the KPP man the port of Sassnitz is controlled by a Soviet officer whose name is Petrov (fnu). Petrov who is allegedly stationed in Stralsund visits Sassnitz three or four times every week in order to check the goods which have arrived there, the arrivals and departures of vessels, and the activities of the criminal police there. The KPP has its headquarters in the harbor area close to the ferry berth. The KPP also has to check incoming and outgoing east and west registered fishing cutters. Head of the Sassnitz KPP is Kriminalkommissar August Henning who lives in Sassnitz.
- By 4 August 1951, 1,400 persons who wanted to participate in the Berlin World Youth Festival had arrived in Sassnitz, including about 650 Russians and Finns who were carried to Sassnitz on two Soviet steamers. Non-local police were observed in the town and harbor area from about 10 July to early August 1951. The Staatssicherheitsdienst (State Security Service) (S.S.D) was also reinforced during that period. However, it was not possible to find out whether these measures were taken with regard to the expected arrival of delegations for the World Youth Festivals which were to be disembarked there or were taken in connection with the intensified training activity of the Soviet naval forces.

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4. On 26 June 1951, one of the floating docks in the harbor of Sassnitz was towed to Swinemuende by four large Soviet tugs. On 30 June 1951, the second floating dock was also hauled to Swinemuende by the same tugs. Each tug had a crew of 35 to 40 men from the Soviet Navy. On 20 July 1951, six floating cylinders, each 10 meters long and 5 meters in diameter, forming part of the docks, were also towed to Swinemuende. Two Soviet tugs took three tanks in tow. On 3 August 1951, the Soviet

25X1B Bug [] towed off some other cylinders. (3)

5. The number of fishing vessels registered in Sassnitz has increased. In July and August 1951, 17 new 24 meter drifters arrived in Sassnitz and were stationed there. They have a crew of seven, and each is fitted with a 180 HP Diesel engine and a radio set. []

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25X1B [] Additional drifters of this type were to arrive. On 13 September 1951, 27 east registered and 24 west registered cutters were observed in Sassnitz. (2)

Soviet Naval Activity at Sassnitz.

6. From 21 June to 19 September 1951, Soviet warships were either lying in Sassnitz harbor or held exercises including target practice off Stubbenkammer. Gunnery exercises were held either against the white cliffs called Wissower Klinken or against sea targets which were towed by the Soviet tugs []. In late August and in September, the exercises held by the Soviet naval forces were particularly intensive. At times, up to 25 Soviet units were simultaneously in the harbor of Sassnitz. Beginning in late August 1951, joint exercises were held with the Sea Police units (see para 12). Flash lamp signals were exchanged with the signal station on the western mole head which is manned by Soviet naval personnel. The naval forces took on fuel, provisions and ammunition at the port. (4)

7. From 5 to 20 September 1951, the exercises could be observed from the harbor jetty at a distance of two or three kilometers. During that period the weather and visibility were always good. On 5 September 1951, the minesweepers [] and the smaller vessels [] 25X1B took part in these maneuvers. In each case the two vessels [] 25X1B used to precede the main body taking up permanent positions apparently indicating the limits of the training area. Between these two positions, the four minesweepers steamed to and fro together altering their formation (line ahead, line abreast, quarter and echelon). The distances and intervals were two or three boat lengths. During these maneuvers, the minesweepers laid mines at intervals of about 100 m. With the aid of a crane erected on the stern, metallic-looking bodies were dropped into the water. After the minesweepers had laid the mines on their first run they picked them up again on their return. On this occasion the boats proceeded in line ahead, and source could clearly observe that heavy steel wires were trailing 20 to 30 meters from the sterns of the minesweepers into the water. These exercises were repeated several times during the day and were interrupted by fog navigation exercises or signal exercises with the signal station in the harbor. These daily exercises varied according to the strength and composition of the participating groups (3 to 6 minesweepers and 1 or 2 smaller boats). However, on the whole, all these exercises were more or less of the same kind. (5)

8. To date the following Soviet warships have been observed in Sassnitz:

Six boats [] 60-65 meters 25X1 in length. There is a strong step-shaped platform on a level with the trailing edge of the bridge. On the quarter deck, a rope winch is fitted between two tracks with a gauge of 0.7 to 0.8 meters, running along the bulwark as far as the stern where they reach a roller fitted on the upper edge of the stern. A crane, 1.6 to 1.7 meters high, is fitted on each side of the stern and at the outside of the tracks. It is capable of lifting a load from the tracks and lowering it into the water. Several tarpaulins covered objects, about 1 to 1.2 meter high, stood on the tracks. (6) On the bow of each vessel was a gun with an estimated caliber of about 100 mm

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fitted with a protective shield curved toward the rear. The estimated length of the barrel was between 2.5 and 2 meters. A 30 or 40 mm gun was mounted on each side of the bridge. The bridge was about 3 meters high and 3 meters long. A searchlight was fitted at each forward corner. In the middle was a mast, 10 meters high; its head was fitted with a dome-shaped white metal device (1/3 cylinder, 400 x 150 mm) with a black pole in the center. At the point of the bow was a cornucopia-shaped device, the mouth of which pointed rearward across the stern toward the bridge. Its opening was about 0.6 meter in diameter with a greenish wire-meshed glass plate as a cover.

Three boats [redacted] Length 60 to 70 meters. Two stern cranes, launching roller fitted on the rear edge of the stern. Crew of about 40 men. Armament one gun on the forecastle (estimated caliber about 100 mm), two guns of same caliber on the stern; two automatic guns (caliber about 37 mm) were mounted forward of the bridge, and two other automatic guns aft of the bridge.

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9. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 31 August 1951, intensive firing probably from heavy batteries, was heard from the direction between Greifswald Oie and Swinemünde.
10. In mid-September 1951, the Soviet Navy occupied only the former German Marinekaserne on Hafenstrasse in Sassnitz. A naval detachment of about 40 men which was billeted there was relieved at irregular intervals. The crews of the warships in harbor only went ashore to see movies, bathe or for other specific purposes. On 14 September 1951, a commission of four Soviet officers and four officers of the Volkspolizei inspected the harbor. Soundings were taken in the ferry berths and at the quay.

Volkspolizei and Seepolizei Activity at Sassnitz.

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12. Occupants of the former barracks buildings of the Range Finding School in Dwasieden stated that beginning October 1951, two out of eight blocks were to be evacuated. Sixty-two families have been given notice. The barracks installation is scheduled to be used by an unidentified police unit.

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13. At 4 p.m on 31 August 1951, 60 cyclists of the Sea Police rode through Sassnitz toward Prora. They wore green shirts and blue trousers and were armed with rifles, submachine guns or pistols, and hand grenades. They also carried spades.
14. Kriminalkommissar August Henning in Sassnitz stated that, beginning in late July 1951, the watchmen would be issued uniforms and uniformly armed and would be given specially trained dogs. Orders to this effect were allegedly issued by the SED in Stralsund. In early August, Henning said that in the near future Sassnitz would be declared a Soviet naval port.
15. In early September 1951, the board of customs in Sassnitz was informed by the authorities in Berlin that the custom-house officials would be issued uniforms similar to those of the Volkspolizei. Polizei Oberrat Bruenning (fnu) was the border commissar. He lives in Greifswald and is about 42 years old, fair haired, chubby faced, heavy set and about 1.70 meters tall. His deputy was Oberkommissar Mueller (fnu) who also lives in Greifswald.
16. On 3 September 1951, Karl Maron, Inspector General of the Volkspolizei, Berlin, and his staff inspected Sassnitz together with Grenzkommissar Bruenning. Objects of the inspection were the West Harbor and the KPP Sassnitz Hafen. Previous inspections were said to have been held in Prora, Binz, Gohren and Lauterbach, all on Ruegen Island.

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☐ Comments.

- (1) Similar measures were reported from other frontier crossings.
- (2) The annex supplements the data on the fishing vessels stationed in Sassnitz by furnishing the names of the owners, the home ports, and the size of the vessels.
- (3) The designation of floating docks refers to the salvage pontoons and salvage cylinders which were used in raising the German steamer Hankburg (22,117 GRT) scuttled off Sassnitz. After her salvage this ship was provisionally repaired in Warnemuende. Her present name is the Kuri Dolguruki. Since 26 May 1951, she has been in an Antwerp shipyard for underwater repairs. In the Soviet Zone of Germany, there is no dock capable of accommodating this ship.
- (4) During the summer months, the Soviet naval forces intensified their training activities off Sassnitz.
- (5) This information refers to normal minelaying exercises.
- (6) These objects may be dummy mines.
- (7) It is inferred from a press report of 13 October 1951 that the Sea Police is equipped with six modern coast guard boats and six former German motor minesweepers of the same type as the Soviet CK boats. Therefore, the boats of the Sea Police and the CK boats perform joint exercises. According to the same press report, a flotilla of German minesweepers will be returned to the Sea Police by the Soviet Navy. These boats are allegedly already being overhauled in Rostock and the Russian designations on the engines are replaced by German ones.

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